

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the export of rubber products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total quantity of rubber products with its volume which is likely to be exported during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The production and consumption of Natural Rubber/Raw Rubber and Synthetic Rubber in the country during the last three years are as under :

(in thousands MT)

Year	Natural/Raw Rubber		Synthetic Rubber	
	Production	Consumption	Production	Consumption
1994-95	472	486	64	123
1995-96	507	525	68	134
1995-97 (e)	549	570	64	143

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to increase the export of rubber products include extension of Market Development Assistance, liberalisation of policy and procedures, promotional measures like exchange of trade delegations and participation in Trade Fairs abroad and exchange and dissemination of information through Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL)

(d) The estimated value of rubber products likely to be exported during 1997-98 is Rs. 1390 crore.

#### Open Cast Mine Project

4343 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Western Coalfields Limited authorities have allocated mine sites to one of the Ispat Group for Bhatadi Open Cast mine project in violation of the rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations against the allotment of site for Bhatadi Open Cast Mine project; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Bhatadih

Opencast project has not been allocated to any private organisation and is being worked by Western Coalfields Limited.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Disinvestment Fund

4344 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal regarding setting up a disinvestment fund instead of financial support from the budget for the public sector undertakings is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (c) There is no proposal for setting up a disinvestment fund instead of financial support from budget for the public sector undertakings. It has, however, been decided to set up a revolving fund out of part proceeds of disinvestment to supplement budgetary support being extended as at present.

[English]

#### India Brand Equity Fund

4345 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to leverage specialised international funds to raise the Rs. 500 crore corpus for the India Brand Equity Fund;

(b) if so, the total funds tapped so far;

(c) how are these to be used to promote Indian generic products;

(d) how these funds are likely to be managed; and

(e) how the India Brand Equity Fund is expected to concentrate on some selected markets and products and its role in boosting exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b)